

A NEW COMBINATION IN NORTH AMERICAN *TEPHROSIA* (FABACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Tephrosia xintermedia (Small) G.L. Nesom & Zarucchi, comb. nov., is the correct name for plants regarded as hybrids between *Tephrosia chrysophylla* and *T. florida*, replacing *T. xfloridana* (Vail) Isely. Details of typification are given for *Cracca intermedia* Small and *Cracca floridana* Vail.

RESUMEN

Tephrosia xintermedia (Small) G.L. Nesom & Zarucchi, comb. nov., es el nombre correcto para las plantas consideradas como híbridos entre *Tephrosia chrysophylla* y *T. florida*, que reemplaza a *T. xfloridana* (Vail) Isely. Se aportan detalles de la tipificación de *Cracca intermedia* Small y *Cracca floridana* Vail.

Cracca intermedia Small was described (Small 1894) as a new species intermediate between *C. chrysophylla* (Pursh) Kuntze (= *Tephrosia chrysophylla* Pursh) and *C. ambigua* (M.A. Curtis) Kuntze (= *Tephrosia florida* (F. Dietr.) C.E. Wood). Vail (1895) curiously provided *C. intermedia* with a new name, *Cracca smallii* Vail, because she apparently regarded *C. intermedia* as invalidated by the earlier *Tephrosia intermedia* Graham in Wall. In the same publication, Vail described *C. floridana* Vail, noting that it was “very close” to *C. smallii*. Isely (1982, 1990, 1998) provided the combination *Tephrosia xfloridana* (Vail) Isely and used it in reference to the putative *T. chrysophylla*—*T. florida* hybrids, even though he correctly recognized Graham’s *T. intermedia* to be a nomen nudum.

Tephrosia intermedia Graham was indeed published without a description and is illegitimate as a nomen nudum, but it does not block the transfer of *Cracca intermedia* Small to *Tephrosia*. Many of the nomina nuda in Wallich’s list were validated by description in Don (1831–1834), but *Tephrosia intermedia* is not among them. “*T. intermedia* Grah. in Wall. Cat. 5632” was listed at the end of the paragraph for *Tephrosia tinctoria* Pers. var. *intermedia* [W & A.] in J.D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 2:112. 1879, so the epithet “*intermedia*” at the rank of species under “*Tephrosia*” was not there validated.

Tephrosia xintermedia (Small) G.L. Nesom & Zarucchi, comb. nov. *Cracca intermedia* Small, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 21:303. 1894 (non *Tephrosia intermedia* Graham [nom. nud.], Numer. List [Wallich] n. 5632. Between 1831 and 1832.). *Cracca smallii* Vail, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 22:33. 1895 [nom. nov. for *C. intermedia* Small]. *Tephrosia smallii* (Vail) B.L. Rob., Bot. Gaz. 28:198. 1899. TYPE: U.S.A. FLORIDA. [Duval Co.]: near Jacksonville, Florida, 31 May, Fr. 11 Jul 1893, A.H. Curtiss 4231 (LECTOTYPE: NY 00006579, digital image!; ISOLECTOTYPES: NY 00006578, digital image!; US, US-digital image!). Small’s protologue noted that the collection was made “by Mr. A.H. Curtiss in 1893, flowering on May 31st and in mature fruit on July 11th” and that it was collected from “dry and poor ‘Blackjack thickets’ about Jacksonville,” although the habitat information does not appear on the label of any of the specimens. Isely (1982) indicated “Curtiss 4231” at NY to be the “holotype” but he did not specify which of the duplicates was the type. Sheet 00006579 has a printed label “type” while 00006578 has a printed label “isotype,” and it is assumed here that these labels are correct designations. The label of 00006578 has “*C. smallii* A.M. Vail” handwritten below the typed “*Cracca intermedia* Small. sp. nov.”

Cracca floridana Vail, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 22:35. 1895. *Tephrosia xfloridana* (Vail) Isely, Brittonia 34:340. 1982. TYPE: U.S.A. FLORIDA. Lake Co.: high pineland, vicinity of Eustis, Jul 1894, G.V. Nash 1198 (LECTOTYPE, designated by Isely 1982: NY, digital image!). Vail cited “Central Florida, G.V. Nash Nos. 494½, 1198, 1263, 1334, 1552, 1615. Louisiana, New Orleans, Dr. Ingalls. Types in Herb. Columbia College.” Photos of all syntypes except Nash 1334 are displayed on the NY web site. As noted by Isely (1982), the Ingalls collection does not appear to represent a different taxon.

The original hypothesis of hybrid origin of *Tephrosia intermedia* has been accepted by those who have further studied the genus (Vail 1895; Robinson 1899; Wood 1949). Isely (1998, p. 856–857) noted that “As alleged

by Wood (1949), *Tephrosia* ×*floridana* probably is a derivative of hybridization between *T. chrysophylla* and *T. florida*. Whatever its origin, it is sufficiently widely distributed and consistent in characters to deserve binomial listing." It has been collected from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi, but the distribution is sporadic and its origin as a recurrent hybrid seems a reasonable hypothesis. It occurs in association with the two putative parents and is intermediate in morphology.

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